



GOOD ST. ANNE

LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, SVD
DIVINE WORD MISSIONARY PUBLICATIONS
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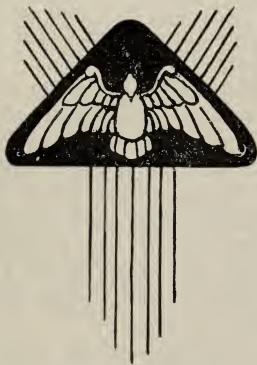
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Good Saint Anne

By

LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK

Divine Word Missionary



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FOREWORD

Devotion to Saint Anne can be traced back to the fourth century in the Greek Church of the Orient. In the thirteenth century it spread in the Latin Church of the West. From that time on Saint Anne became one of the most popular saints of the Catholic Church.

Devotion to Saint Anne has perhaps never been so popular as it is in our own day. The miracles performed by the Mother of Our Lady have been frequent and great, so that Catholic people all over the world are turning to her for help.

This booklet was prepared to supply some up-to-date material which may aid Catholics in their public and private prayers to good Saint Anne. Pictures of Saint Anne, painted by the most famous artists of all times, have been reproduced to inspire the pious devotion of her clients. They are a reminder that down through the centuries of Christianity Saint Anne had a special place in the hearts of the children of God.

I entrust these pages to the loving daughter of Saint Anne, Mary Immaculate, as a tribute of love to the great Saint whom she could in all truth call "mother."

FATHER LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.

Feast of St. Anne, July 26, 1953
Sacred Heart Mission Seminary
Girard, Pennsylvania

I. GOOD SAINT ANNE

The Life of Saint Anne

Concerning the mother of the Blessed Virgin, and the grandmother of Jesus Christ according to the flesh, the Holy Spirit observes silence in the Holy Scripture. Whatever is related of the life of Saint Anne and whatever is said of the power of her intercession are based upon pious traditions.

All our information concerning Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary, is derived from the "Proto-evangelium" of James, which goes back to about A.D. 150. We can hardly accept as beyond doubt its various statements on its sole authority. In the Orient it had great authority. From the 13th century on, through the influence of a book called "*Golden Legend*," the story of Saint Anne spread over the West until she became one of the most popular saints also in the Latin Church.

In Nazareth there lived a rich and pious couple, Joachim and Anna. They were childless, a condition that was held as a bitter misfortune among the Jews. When on a feast day Joachim presented himself to offer sacrifice in the temple, he was repulsed by a certain Ruben, under the pretext that men without offspring were unworthy to be admitted. Whereupon Joachim, bowed down with grief, did not return home, but went into the mountains to plead with God in solitude. Also Anna, having learned the reason of the prolonged absence of her husband, cried to the Lord to take away from her the curse of sterility, and promised to dedicate her child to the service of God.

Their prayers were heard. An angel came to Anna and said: "Anna, the Lord has looked upon thy tears. 'Thou shalt conceive and give birth, and the fruit of thy womb shall be blessed by all the world.'" The angel made the same promise to Joachim, who returned to his wife.

Anna gave birth to a daughter whom she called Miriam (Mary). Anna offered her child to God in the service of the temple at a very tender age.

Why we honor and love Saint Anne

Consider the dignity, sanctity and power of Saint Anne.

1) The DIGNITY of Saint Anne is great because *she descended from kings and high priests*. On the father's side, she came from the tribe of Levi; on the mother's side, from the tribe of Juda. Her conduct was worthy of her great forefathers.

Her dignity is great especially because of *her descendants*. Her daughter was Mary, predestined from all eternity to be the Mother of God, sanctified in her conception, the undefiled Virgin, the Mediatrix of all graces. Her Grandson was the Son of God made Man, the Messiah, the Expected of nations. Children are the joy and crown of their parents. Mary is not only the joy and crown, but the foundation for all the glory and power of her mother.

2) Saint Anne's SANCTITY is so great because of the many graces which God has bestowed upon her. Her very name signifies "grace." God prepared Saint Anne with magnificent gifts and graces. Of her may be said what Saint Bernardine of Siena wrote

of Saint Joseph: "In the kingdom of grace, the universal rule is: If God elects anyone for a special and a sublime state, He bestows on that person all the gifts necessary for his state and adornment." As the works of God are perfect, it was natural to expect that He should make her a worthy mother of that most pure creature who was superior in sanctity to all creatures and inferior only to God.

God gave Saint Anne a high degree of *sanctifying grace*. She was cleansed from the guilt and stain of original sin, and sanctified. She preserved this grace carefully. She would never have been honored with becoming the grandmother of Jesus by nature unless she had first been His daughter by grace. With all the just of the Old Testament she longed ardently for the salvation of Israel.

God blessed Saint Anne with many *actual graces* for she performed innumerable good works, such as prayer and deeds of charity. Being the mother of the child "full of grace," she experienced many and holy inspirations.

God also granted Saint Anne *extraordinary graces*, for God elevated her to a high degree of dignity, and chose her for His special service. She became a mother in her advanced age by a miracle. In her womb the mystery of the Immaculate Conception was accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit. How holy must have been her joy and how profound her humility!

But Saint Anne's sanctity was great also because *she cooperated with the grace of God*. She was always most careful to avoid even the shadow of sin. Since sanctity and sin cannot exist together, she hated sin as the worst evil in the world.

Saint Anne was zealous in performing good works and striving for virtue. She loved God sincerely, and was resigned to His holy Will in all sufferings, such as her sterility during twenty years. As a wife and mother she was faithful in fulfilling the duties required of her toward her husband and her loving daughter Mary.

3) The POWER of Saint Anne's intercession is very great. She is not only a saint and a friend of God, but she is also the grandmother of Jesus according to the flesh. *The Blessed Trinity will grant her petitions:* the Father for whom she bore, nursed, trained, and devoted His favored daughter; the Son, to whom she gave a mother; the Holy Spirit, whose bride she educated with such great care. This favored saint ranks high in merit and glory, near to the Word Incarnate and to His most holy Mother. Certainly, then, Saint Anne has great power with God. The mother of the Queen of Heaven, who is all-powerful through her intercession and the Mother of mercy, is likewise full of power and mercy.

You have every reason to choose Saint Anne as *your intercessor* before God. As grandmother of Jesus Christ, our Brother according to the flesh, she is also our grandmother and loves us, her grandchildren. She loves us with a great love because her Grandson Jesus died for our souls, and Mary, her daughter, became our Mother beneath the cross. She must love us sincerely because of the two Persons whom she loved most in her life, Jesus and Mary. If her love is so great, her intercession is also great. You should, therefore, go to her with great confidence in your needs.

II. NOVENA TO SAINT ANNE



First Day

GRANDMOTHER OF JESUS

Good Saint Anne,* I venerate and love you as the Grandmother of Jesus. This title is the foundation of all the other privileges* which surround you with glory. God has decided * that the world was to be restored to the life of grace * by the Word of God made Man. From all eternity your daughter had been chosen * as the Mother of this Redeemer. Mary is truly our Co-Redemptress. Your blood flowed in Mary's veins,* and hence also in those of Jesus.

I offer you my praises * in union with all Catholics throughout the world, who are brothers of Jesus * — children, like Him, of your daughter Mary. God willed to come so close to us * as to be one of us in the flesh through you. Now we are the brothers by grace of Him * who is your Grandson by nature; so we are as it were your grandchildren * for we all belong to the family of God. As such we offer you our reverence and love. Accept, dear mother, our prayers and devotion.



THE MADONNA OF DIVINE LOVE

St. Anne with John and Joseph

by Raphael

National Museum, Naples

Good Saint Anne,* I greet you as a favorite saint in heaven and on earth. God the Father loves you * as the mother of His beloved daughter Mary. God the Son loves you * for having given Him a mother* through whom He became Man and the Savior of the world. God the Holy Spirit

loves you * for having given Him so beautiful and worthy a spouse. The angels and the saints in heaven honor you * as the Mother of their Queen. The just and sinners turn to you * as to their powerful advocate before God,* and by your intercession* they hope for grace and forgiveness.

Loving Saint Anne,* your Grandson Jesus considers the slightest wish of His grandmother * as an order to be carried out with love and devotion. He is limited by no human weakness in doing so. Being almighty,* He is able and willing to fulfill your requests.

Be kind and gracious to us all,* and intercede in our behalf. Use in our favor the great influence you have before God * and your most blessed daughter. Do not allow us who honor you to lose our souls,* but show yourself always the refuge of sinners * and the consolation of the afflicted. Plead our cause before God now and at the hour of our death. This we beg of you * by all the love which you have for Our Lord, your Grandson,* and for His mother, your glorious daughter,* that thus aided by your prayers * we may one day reach eternal life * and praise God together with you forever. Amen.

Good Saint Anne, Grandmother of Jesus,* pray for us.

(See the NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)



Second Day

MOTHER OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Good Saint Anne,* I venerate and love you as the mother of the Mother of God. How patiently you and your husband, Saint Joachim,* bore the trial of being childless,* for which you were despised by your own people. But God heard your prayer,* and in your old age favored you with the greatest blessing * ever bestowed on an earthly union. In your womb the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin. You gave flesh to her * who was to give a human nature to the Son of God * through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Glorious Saint Anne,* I praise you as the noblest of mothers,* for you prepared in your womb the body which was made worthy * to be a dwelling place for the Son of God. You brought forth the most lovable of the daughters of Eve * who was full of grace, * the blessed one among all women of the world,* who gave flesh to the Son of God. The mother of God is your daughter. God's own Son is your Grandson. In this lies your



St. Anne with Jesus and Mary
by Anton Van Dyck, Hamburg

own great dignity,* and for this I congratulate you. I honor and love you with all my heart.

Saint Anne,* you were privileged to satisfy the earliest wants of Mary* and to watch over her infancy. You worked together with the Holy Spirit* in the education of her soul* to prepare her for the highest vocation* ever given to a woman* — to be the mother of God's own Son. You presented her to the Lord in the temple at the age of three,* and,

according to your promise,* consecrated her to the service of God. You rejoiced at Mary's share in the redemption * as the mother of the Divine Redeemer. And when, after her glorious Assumption into Heaven,* she crossed the heavenly courts * to accept her heavenly glory,* you received from the angels and saints the honors due to you as her mother. And now you will enjoy for all eternity * the tender love and unsurpassed glory of your loving daughter Mary.

Good Saint Anne,* mother of the holiest woman that ever lived,* you must have shared in the holiness of your beloved daughter. God prepared you * to be in some way worthy of the dignity of being her mother. You were in a sense the starting-point of Redemption, * for in you were wrought the miracles * which brought new joy to heaven,* defeat to Satan,* and salvation to the world. I thank Him for all the graces * He bestowed upon you and your daughter Mary.

The Holy Spirit formed your daughter Mary * into the most perfect image of her Divine Son. Through grace He took possession of her,* adorned her with spiritual beauty,* made her His holy temple. By His indwelling He prepared her * to be a worthy sanctuary for the Son of God. In the sacred hour of the Annunciation * the Holy Spirit performed in her the great mystery of the Incarnation. He formed in Mary and out of Mary * the human nature of the eternal Word, the Son of God.

Good Saint Anne,* no one on earth was closer to Jesus * than your daughter Mary. Through her Divine Motherhood* the Holy Spirit united her most intimately with the

Son of God. You own daughter is, next to Christ,* the most perfect likeness and image of God,* the clearest mirror of His beauty and goodness,* the first-born of creation,* the most cherished of all God's children. All this wonderful adornment of Mary,* all her natural and supernatural privileges and riches * — her Immaculate Conception,* her perfect sinlessness,* her perpetual virginity,* her fullness of grace * — all these were the gifts of God to Mary. This beauty of soul and body given to your daughter * is but a reflection of His own beauty and glory,* and a revelation of His love for her,* and also for you, the mother of Mary. How all this must rejoice your motherly heart! I rejoice with you, good Saint Anne,* for having been privileged * to be the mother of so beautiful and holy a daughter!

Good Saint Anne,* recommend me to your glorious daughter,* and pray to her for me,* for she refuses none of your requests. May she look down with tender compassion upon me* for I have confidence in the fact* that I love and serve you, her mother. Beg her to obtain for me the graces I need to keep from sin * and to keep from losing the grace of God,* that my heart may ever remain His holy dwelling. May she obtain salvation for me from her divine Son * through her most powerful intercession, that after having served my God with all the love of my heart in this world,* I may deserve to be rewarded with the possession of Him in heaven * for all eternity. Amen.

Good Saint Anne, Mother of God,* pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)



Vision of St. Anne
by Tiepolo
State Gallery, Dresden



Third Day

MOTHER OF MY HEAVENLY MOTHER

Good Saint Anne,* I venerate and love you as the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary,* the Mother of God. At the Incarnation * your loving daughter became likewise the Mother of men. She conceived Jesus,* the Head of a Mystical Body whose members we are. She also conceived His members* who have been born again by grace * and have become one with Him spiritually. When she became the mother of Jesus according to the flesh,* she became the mother of men according to the spirit.

This truth was confirmed on Calvary,* when at the very moment our Redemption was to be completed by the death of Jesus,* He said to Mary:* “Behold thy son”;* then to Saint John,* who took our place beneath the cross:* “Behold thy mother.” Thus Mary brought us forth spiritually on Calvary * and has become our spiritual mother. I thank you, Saint Anne, for such a mother.

Since the surest refuge for a child is the heart of its mother,* I beg you to give me

a tender love for your loving daughter Mary,* my spiritual mother. As Jesus, your Grandson, in His infancy* depended upon the loving care of His mother,* and in death when He was abandoned by all,* even by His Father,* still had the heart of His mother,* so let me ever rely with complete childlike confidence * on the heart of my heavenly mother Mary. And as the last beat of the Sacred Heart was to be one with hers,* just as the first had been,* may each beat of my heart, especially my last, * be an expression of my love for God and for Mary.*

I believe that Mary is not only our mother,* but also the Mediatrix of All Graces,* and that God has willed * that His aid should reach us through her. He wished to adapt Himself to our nature * by giving us life and aid * through the heart of a mother. Having placed in her heart some of His own love for mankind * to make her the spiritual mother of the redeemed,* He shows us more of His own love and mercy * through that same motherly heart. Give me a great confidence in that motherly heart,* and entrust to it all my needs and problems.

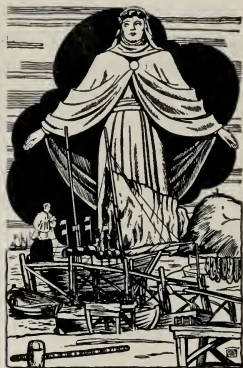
Good Saint Anne,* I want you to offer me to God * as you offered your loving daughter Mary. Make me in some way more like her,* that my whole life may be pleasing to God. As Mary was the way by which God came to man,* so in God's plans * she is the way by which man goes back to God. I abandon myself completely to your motherly guidance,* that you may lead me to Mary,* and through Mary to Jesus and to God.

I beg you, good Saint Anne,* to give me a tender love,* unbounded confidence,* and

a childlike devotion* to your glorious daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary,* for she was given to me as mother by Jesus, my Savior. I also thank you * for giving me so wonderful a mother. Make me believe of Mary what the Church believes of her,* and love her as the Church loves her,* more and more as Jesus and you love her. May she be for me the "Morning Star" on my journey through life,* the "Mother of Mercy" in my sinfulness,* and finally the "Gate of Heaven" at the hour of my death.

Good Saint Anne, Mother of my heavenly Mother,* pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)



Fourth Day

MODEL OF VIRTUE

Great Saint Anne,* Model of Christian virtue,* I come to beg the aid of your prayers * that I may always lead a truly holy life. Obtain for me the virtues which you have so faithfully practiced * and which you have taught your daughter Mary,* who was destined to become the mother of God.

There is nothing that you want more * than to see me perfectly dedicated to God as Mary was. My salvation depends upon my living up to the promises of my baptism. Help me to be faithful to these holy vows * by which I have renounced Satan,* his works and false glory,* and have pledged my loyalty to God. Keep me a great distance from sin and all its occasions.

Good Saint Anne,* be my guide, my friend, my counsellor,* my guardian and my intercessor before God. Fill my soul with wisdom and knowledge of the teachings of Christ. Sanctify me in the grace of God * which I hope to obtain through your prayers to Jesus,* the Source of all graces,* and to



Head of St. Anne
by Leonardo da Vinci
Louvre, Paris

your daughter Mary,* the Mediatrix of All Graces.

Good Saint Anne,* through your powerful intercession with Jesus and Mary * obtain for me the grace: *

To look at *myself* just as I am,* in the spirit of true humility.

To look at *life* as it really is.* Never let me forget that this world will pass away * while the next is eternal and that my great-

est duty is to give glory to God * and to save my soul.

To hate *sin*, even venial sin,* as the greatest evil in the world * and to avoid every occasion that will lead me into it; and if I should fall through human weakness,* help me to be sincerely sorry and penitent,* and to return to an even more intimate friendship with God.

To shun the *world* and its spirit,* to despise its interests and opinions,* and never to conform to its ways.

To see the hand of *God's Providence* in all that happens,* and with confidence to abandon myself to His loving guidance.

To *love* God above all things * and find delight in Him alone,* and for His sake love *my neighbor* and His creatures.

To listen to the inspiration of God's grace,* to promote His glory among men,* and to work always with Him and for Him.

To *love Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother* with a deep personal love,* and to endeavor to live in constant union with Them.

To live a truly *holy life*,* to die a *happy death*,* and to possess God for all eternity in *heaven*. Amen.

Good Saint Anne, model of Virtue,* pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)

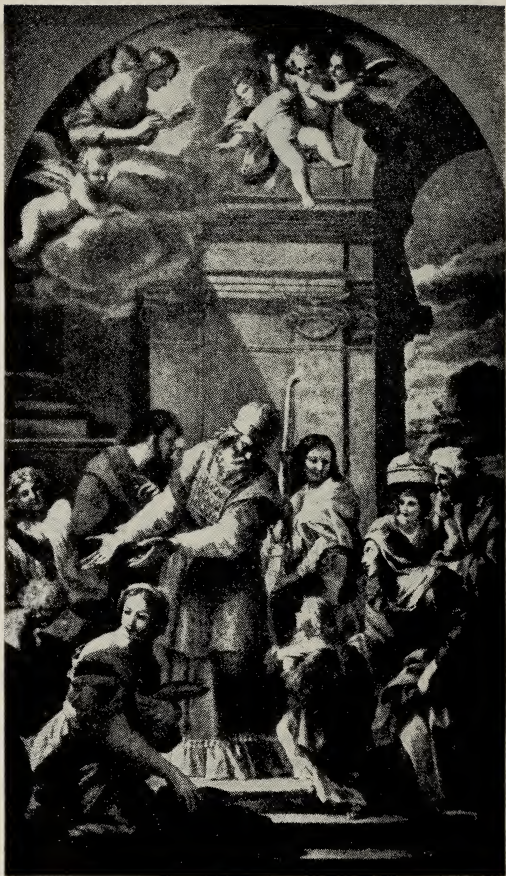


Fifth Day

HELP OF THE CHURCH

Great Patriarch, Saint Joachim,* and good Saint Anne,* deserving by your singular virtue to be chosen by divine Providence* to give to the world that immaculate Queen,* in whom all nations were to be blessed,* and who, in her virginal bosom,* was to bear the Savior of the human race;* we who are your devout clients* rejoice with you in this your great privilege,* and implore you to extend your special protection* to ourselves and our families.

Dear Saints,* do not let the devil and sin find a place in our hearts,* nor the false wisdom of the world to lead us astray. Do not permit us to live unmindful of eternity,* for which we have been created. Obtain for us from God a firm and unshaken faith,* that we may oppose the wickedness and errors* which are ever being spread abroad* by the enemies of Holy Church and the Apostolic See. Give us a sincere and constant devotion to the Vicar of Jesus Christ,* the Roman Pontiff,* and an unfail-



St. Anne presents Mary in the Temple
by Romanelli
Church of St. Mary of the Angels
Rome

ing courage in answering lies against those things * which are most sacred and venerable in our holy religion.

You are powerful because of the love * which your holy daughter Mary bears toward you. Assist the cause of the Church. Gain for her the victory for which she sighs,* scatter the powers of darkness,* destroy their pride,* and grant that the light of the true Faith may shine brightly in all minds.

Grant us, above all,* a tender and childlike devotion to your beloved daughter and our Mother,* Mary most holy,* so that we,* honoring her daily with our devout homage,* may be made worthy * to be numbered among her children. And after the miseries of this exile, * may we be brought to praise and bless the mercy of God * forever in heaven. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. (Three times.)

According to the indulgenced prayer to St. Joachim found in the Raccolta (492).

O Joachim, husband of holy Anne,* father of the merciful Virgin,* bring us, your servants,* help for our salvation.

300 days, once a day (490).

Good Saint Anne, Help of the Church,* pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)



Sixth Day

SUPPORT OF CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

Good Saint Anne,* beloved of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,* mother of the Queen of Heaven,* I venerate you as the patroness and support of Christian families. How deeply were you devoted to your husband, Saint Joachim,* with holy, chaste, and constant love. With what zealous care you watched over and trained your little daughter,* the Blessed Virgin Mary,* that she might become the beloved daughter of the heavenly Father,* the mother of His Divine Son,* and the bride of the Holy Spirit. How pleasing to God was your offering of Mary in the temple * at the tender age of three.

As guardian of the infancy and childhood of the most blessed Virgin Mary,* you showed the sanctity and dignity of labor * to be an expression of God's will. But even more,* it pointed to the need of religion * as the foundation for happy family life. I thank God for the fatherly care and kindness * with which He has blessed your union with Saint Joachim,* and led the marriage bond



St. Anne teaches Mary

by F. Solimena

Prado, Madrid

back to its original purity, * and filled it with such graces * that from it there could come forth * that stainless blossom of mankind * — Mary, the virgin mother of God.

You lived a simple, holy and God-fearing life in the married state. Prayer and work,* zeal, peace, and love, reigned in your household. There the holy angels dwelt with you,* and the infinite God looked down with pleasure upon you. From your favored family has come forth a stream of blessings * that has filled the whole world. Obtain for all who

enter the married state the graces they need, * that imitating your virtues, * they may sanctify their homes,* and lead the souls entrusted to their care to eternal glory.

Good Saint Anne,* patroness and support of Christian families,* the refuge and consolation of all in need, * I, together with my whole family,* choose you as our mother, patroness, and intercessor before God. We consecrate ourselves to you with childlike love and confidence,* and we beg you,* mother of Our Lady and grandmother of Jesus,* to receive us among the number of your clients,* and to take us under your special protection.

Loving mother, Saint Anne,* we wish to make you the mistress of our home * and of all our interests and needs. Take care of us,* and deal with everything just as you wish. Bless our whole family,* and do not permit any of us to grieve your Grandson Jesus by sin. Protect us in temptations,* guard us from all dangers,* help us in all our needs,* counsel us in doubts,* console us in trials,* and be at our side in sickness * and especially in the agony of death. Never let the devil boast of having overpowered any of us * who have consecrated ourselves to you. Grant through your great love for Jesus and Mary * that we may at last reach heaven,* where our entire family will again be reunited,* there to praise, love and thank God * together with you for all eternity. Amen.

Good Saint Anne, Support of Christian families,* pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)



Seventh Day

MODEL OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

Good Saint Anne,* how zealously you prepared your daughter Mary * for the sublime vocation of her divine motherhood! How tenderly you loved and guarded your divine grandson Jesus! You show the same tenderness and love * for your grandchildren of the human race. You are, therefore, after Mary,* the best model and help of Christian mothers.

Loving Saint Anne,* Model of Christian mothers,* I entrust the mothers of the world to your tender care. Help them to understand the great dignity of parenthood * and its grave responsibility. Enable them to realize that they are co-sharers with God * in bringing a human being into existence;* that they are entrusted with the salvation of the souls of their children;* that theirs is the mission of fashioning young hearts and minds * according to the divine Model, Christ. Indeed, mothers enjoy, with the priesthood,* the greatest ministry in the



St. Anne, the Teacher

by Murillo
Prado, Madrid

world * — the education of the conscience *
and the training of souls.

Help mothers, in imitation of you,* to fulfill all their obligations * as good Christian mothers should,* and to influence their children more by their good example * than by their words. Obtain for them the grace of bringing up their children * with loving patience and gentle understanding. Teach

them ways and means of leading their children closer to God,* so that the temporal and eternal happiness of those entrusted to them may be assured. Let them submit cheerfully to whatever divine Providence may decree concerning them.

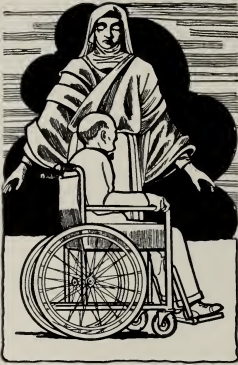
Mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus,* I beg of you in the name of all Christian mothers,* be the kind protectress and loving guardian * of all the children of the world. Teach them to be subject to their parents * and obedient to their guidance. Help them to imitate Mary in keeping the Fourth Commandment of God * by loving and respecting their parents.

Give children a great horror of sin. Keep them from all danger of soul and body,* and preserve them from being spoiled by a sinful world. May all their actions be inspired by Christian principles. Grant them simplicity and purity of heart. Teach them to love God and their neighbor sincerely,* as you taught your holy daughter Mary from her earliest years.

Good Saint Anne,* model of Christian mothers,* beg your loving daughter Mary,* the Queen of Mothers, * to bless all mothers * and the children they have brought into the world, * that all, both mothers and children, * may glorify God and reach eternal life. Amen.

Saint Anne, model of Christian mothers, * pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)



Eighth Day

HEALTH OF THE SICK

Good Saint Anne,* you are justly called the Health of the Sick,* Mother of the infirm,* and the Cure of those who suffer from disease. For centuries the Catholics of the whole world * have acknowledged your power as a healer. The afflicted from everywhere * may be seen at your shrines begging your help. It is impossible to count the number of the infirm of all kinds * whom you have brought back to health and strength:* the despairing ones to whom you have restored hope,* the sorrowing ones to whom you have given comfort. Those, too, who could not visit your shrines * were favored with miraculous cures * because of their great confidence in your compassion and kindness toward the sick. They have never been disappointed * in their trust in the power of your prayers. You have always proved yourself to be the mother of the afflicted,* for you have at your disposal a position of great power * as the mother of



Death of St. Anne
by Andrea Sacchi
Church of St. Charles
Rome

the Blessed Virgin * and the grandmother of Jesus.

Filled with the same confidence in you,* I now plead for the sick and the infirm of the entire world. I entrust to your care * all those who suffer in hospitals and in sick-rooms. I recommend to you in particular . . . (*mention your sick*).

Loving Saint Anne,* whose kind heart is ever ready to sympathize with the miseries of mankind,* extend your gentle hand of mercy * in the aid of the sick and infirm. Lessen their pains,* comfort them in their sorrows,* strengthen them in their trials. Help them to sanctify their sufferings by patience and love * and complete submission to the holy will of God. Make them faithful in the performance of their duties to God and their neighbor. Enable them to unite their sufferings with those of Jesus crucified and the Mother of Sorrows. Finally, if it should please God,* obtain for them the health they so earnestly desire,* that they may ever glorify God for His tender mercy toward them.

Good Saint Anne,* since God has given you the power to work wonders * for those who are sick and infirm,* look upon me in my present need,* which I humbly present to you (*mention it*).

If God should want me to continue carrying my cross,* help me to bear it with patience, love and resignation,* in imitation of the sufferings of Jesus and the sorrows of Mary. Enlighten my mind * that I may understand that suffering is a very important means of sanctifying my soul,* and of reaping a plentiful harvest of merit for Heaven.

Consoler of the afflicted,* give me consolation and strength in every trial. Through your powerful influence over the Heart of Jesus,* your divine Grandson,* and Mary, your loving daughter,* I hope to obtain your help * in my present temporal and spiritual needs.

Since this present life is given us only to assure us a better one,* I earnestly beg you to pray * that we all may obtain the graces we need for salvation, * through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ,* through the intercession of His Immaculate Mother,* and through the power of your intercession with Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Good Saint Anne, Health of the Sick,* pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)



Ninth Day

MY PATRONESS

Good St. Anne,* you are blessed among women,* because you had the happiness of bearing in your womb * the holy and immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God. I congratulate you on the joy you felt in giving birth to her * and offering her in the temple to the Eternal Father. I beg you, good mother,* to present me to your loving daughter * and to her Son, Jesus. Be my advocate and protectress with Jesus and Mary,* for if I am fortunate enough to find favor with you, holy mother Anne,* I may expect everything from your intercession. Such is my hope.

Good Saint Anne,* I choose you, after the Blessed Virgin,* as my spiritual mother and protectress. Through the hands of your immaculate daughter Mary, * receive the consecration of my whole being * which I make to you this day,* in order that henceforth,* at every moment of my life and in each of my actions,* you may deign to be my mother,* my guide, and my intercessor.



**The Virgin Mary and
St. Anne**

Saint Anne,* I consecrate to you *my body with its senses*,* and I beg of you to help me to use them for the greater glory of God. I consecrate to you my eyes,* that they may look only on my Jesus;* my ears,* that they may be attentive only to the divine inspirations of the Holy Spirit;* all my senses,* that they may serve me only to love God *

and to sacrifice myself for Him.

I consecrate to you *my soul with all its faculties*:* my memory,* that it may be mindful only of God's beauty, and of the words, actions, and Passion of my Jesus;* my heart with all its affections,* that, attracted alone by the delights of God's love,* it may ever find in Him peace, * love, strength, light, and lasting happiness. Help me to love God more each day,* and to make Him loved by many souls. Make me, and all those whom I love,* holy and pleasing to God.

Good Saint Anne,* I abandon myself entirely to your loving care. I wish to imitate the virtues you practiced in your lifetime. Pray for me, that I may be formed by the Holy Spirit, with Mary and in Mary,* according to the model of my Jesus. Dear Saint Anne, holy mother of Mary,* be my refuge and my consolation in life and in death. Obtain for me generosity in the service of God,* and by your maternal intercession lead me to heaven. Amen.

Good Saint Anne, my Patroness,* pray for us.

(NOVENA PRAYER, page 37)

III. NOVENA PRAYER (FOR A SPECIAL FAVOR)

Glorious Saint Anne,* I desire to honor you with a special devotion. I choose you, after the Blessed Virgin,* as my spiritual mother and protectress. To you I entrust my soul and my body,* all my spiritual and temporal interests,* as well as those of my family. To you I consecrate my *mind*,* that in all things it may be enlightened by faith;* my *heart*,* that you may keep it pure * and fill it with love for Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and yourself;* my *will*,* that like yours,* it may always be one with the Will of God.

Good Saint Anne,* filled with love for those who invoke you * and with compassion for those who suffer,* I confidently place before you my earnest petition.

(*Mention your request.*)

I beg you to recommend my petition to your daughter, * the Blessed Virgin Mary, * that both Mary and you may present it to Jesus. Through your earnest prayers * may my request be granted. But if what I ask for * should not be according to the Will of God,* obtain for me that which will be for the greater benefit of my soul. By the power and the grace with which God has blessed you,* extend to me your helping hand.

But most of all, merciful Saint Anne,* I beg you to help me to master my evil inclinations and temptations,* and to avoid all occasions of sin. Obtain for me the grace of never offending God,* of fulfilling faithfully all the duties of my state of life,* and of practicing all those virtues * which are needful for my salvation.

Like you, may I belong to God in life and in death * through perfect love. And after having loved and honored you on earth * as a truly devoted child,* may I, through your prayers,* have the privilege of loving and honoring you in heaven * with the angels and saints throughout eternity. Amen.

Good Saint Anne,* mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope,* pray to her for me and obtain my request (*three times*).

Memorare to Saint Anne

Remember, good Saint Anne,* whose name means grace and mercy,* that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,* implored your help,* and sought your intercession,* was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,* I come before you, sinful and sorrowful. Holy mother of the Immaculate Virgin Mary * and loving grandmother of the Savior,* do not reject my appeal,* but hear me and answer my prayer. Amen.

Litany in honor of Saint Anne (FOR PRIVATE USE)

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God, the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

St. Anne, *pray for us.*

St. Anne, offspring of the royal race of David, *pray for us.*

St. Anne, daughter of the Patriarchs, *pray for us.*

St. Anne, faithful spouse of St. Joachim,

St. Anne, mother of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,

St. Anne, gentle mother of the Queen of Heaven,

St. Anne, grandmother of Our Savior,

St. Anne, beloved of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

St. Anne, instrument of the Holy Spirit,

St. Anne, richly endowed with God's grace,

St. Anne, example of piety and patience in suffering,

St. Anne, mirror of obedience,

St. Anne, ideal of pure womanhood,

St. Anne, protectress of virgins,

St. Anne, model of Christian mothers,

St. Anne, protectress of the married,

St. Anne, guardian of children,

St. Anne, support of Christian family life,

St. Anne, help of the Church,

St. Anne, mother of mercy,

St. Anne, mother of confidence,

St. Anne, friend of the poor,

St. Anne, example of widows,

St. Anne, health of the sick,

St. Anne, cure of those who suffer from disease,

St. Anne, mother of the infirm,

St. Anne, light of the blind,

St. Anne, speech of the dumb,

St. Anne, hearing of the deaf,

St. Anne, consolation of the afflicted,

St. Anne, comforter of the oppressed,

St. Anne, joy of the angels and saints,

St. Anne, refuge of sinners,
St. Anne, harbor of salvation,
St. Anne, patroness of a happy death,
St. Anne, help of all who have recourse
to you,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, *have mercy on us.*

V. Pray for us, good St. Anne,

R. That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Let us pray

Almighty and eternal God,* You were
pleased to choose Saint Anne * to be the
Mother of Your loving Son;* grant, we
pray,* that we who confidently honor her,*
may through her prayers attain to everlasting
life. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

IV. VARIOUS PRAYERS

Indulgenced Prayer

With a heart full of sincere and childlike
love,* I venerate you, good Saint Anne. You
are that beloved and favored creature * who,
because of extraordinary virtue and sanc-
tity,* received from God the great privilege
of giving life to Mary,* full of grace and
blessed among women,* the mother of the
Incarnate Lord.

Because of such great favors,* be pleased
to receive me among the number of your de-
voted servants,* for such I claim to be,* and
wish to remain for the rest of my life. Keep

me in your loving protection,* and obtain for me from God the grace to imitate those virtues * with which you were so gloriously adorned.

Help me to know my sins and to be truly sorry for them. Obtain for me an ardent love for Jesus and Mary. Aid me in observing the duties of my state of life faithfully and constantly. Protect me from all dangers in life,* and assist me at the hour of my death,* that I may safely reach heaven,* there to praise together with you, most blessed mother,* the Word of God made Man in the womb of your most pure daughter,* the Blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (*Three times*).

300 days, once a day. (494)

Prayer to St. Joachim and St. Anne

Great and glorious patriarch, Saint Joachim,* and good St. Anne,* what joy is mine when I consider * that you were chosen among all God's holy ones * to assist in the fulfillment of the mysteries of God,* and to enrich our earth with the great Mother of God,* Mary most holy! By this singular privilege,* you have become most powerful with both the Mother and her Son, * so as to be able to obtain for us * the graces that are needful to us.

With great confidence I have recourse to your mighty protection,* and I commend to you all my needs,* both spiritual and temporal,* and those of my family. Especially do I entrust to your keeping * the particular favor that I desire and look for from your intercession. (*Mention your favor.*)

And since you were a perfect pattern of the interior life,* obtain for me the grace to pray earnestly,* and never to set my heart on the passing goods of this life. Give me a lively and enduring love for Jesus and Mary. Obtain for me also a sincere devotion and obedience to Holy Church * and the sovereign pontiff who rules over her, in order that I may live and die in faith and hope and perfect charity.* Let me ever invoke the holy Names of Jesus and Mary.* And may I thus be saved. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (*three times*).

According to the indulgenced prayer to St. Joachim found in the *Raccolta* (491).

Prayers from the Liturgy

(*Preface*)

It is right and just to give thanks to You, eternal God,* who by a singular privilege of Your grace, exalted Saint Anne. You rewarded her desire of fruitfulness with a gift so magnificent * and so far surpassing all others,* that from her was born Mary, the Virgin of virgins,* the Queen of the Angels,* the Star of the Sea,* the Mother of Your Son, who is both God and Man. And, therefore, we join our humble voices with the angels,* saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed be the Savior who comes to us in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(*Collect*)

Almighty everlasting God,* You gave to Saint Anne,* after the affliction of a long barrenness,* the grace to bear a glorious

Fruit; * grant, we beg of You, * that, through her merits and intercession,* we may be made rich in sincere faith and fruitful in works of salvation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

O God,* You were pleased to confer Your grace upon Saint Anne,* whereby she merited to become the mother of her * who brought forth Your only-begotten Son;* mercifully grant * that, as we celebrate her memory,* we may be aided by her intercession. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Youth

Good St. Anne,* I come to entrust to you my youth and my entire life. I want you to be a mother to me * as you were a mother to the Blessed Virgin Mary. With the same loving tenderness, teach, protect, guide me and help me on my journey through life. I put my future into your hands. Beg the Holy Spirit to give me the light to know God's will * and the strength to do it,* so that I may be sure of pleasing God * and saving my immortal soul.

Loving mother, Saint Anne,* give me courage to avoid anything that could offend Jesus. Obtain for me from God great horror of sin. And in order that I may keep my soul undefiled,* keep me close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through frequent Holy Communion and prayer,* and to your immaculate daughter Mary through my daily Rosary.

Be my companion in danger, doubts, difficulties and sorrow. Pray for me now,* and especially at the hour of my death,* that having lived a holy life on earth,* I may win eternal glory in heaven. I ask this for the

sake of Jesus and Mary,* whom you loved so tenderly. Amen.

Prayer for a Wayward Child

Holy mother, Saint Anne, so rich in graces, you will never leave unheard the pleadings and tears of a mother who invokes you for a wayward child. You know my grief and the anguish of my heart. Look down with your motherly eyes upon this poor erring child, and bring her (him) back upon the way of salvation, that she (he) may again serve God faithfully and thus obtain eternal happiness. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Anne for Vocations

Saint Anne, mother of the Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit,* through the merits and holiness with which the Holy Spirit has blessed you, * implore from this Divine Spirit * many and worthy laborers in the vineyard of the Lord.

Obtain for all the Christian families, the spirit of piety and self-denial,* and for all called to the service of the Lord,* true humility and fidelity,* so that the Holy Spirit may work in them with the power of His grace,* and they may become fit instruments * in the hands of the eternal High Priest. Amen.

Devotion to the Five Joys of Saint Anne

1. Most gracious Saint Anne,* I remind you of the great dignity bestowed on you by God * in choosing you to be the mother of the Mother of God. By this grace, I beg you,* obtain from God that I may be numbered among His elect.

Hail Mary . . .

2. Most generous Saint Anne,* I remind you of the great joy you felt * when it became clear to you that you would be the mother of a child * after years of prayer and patient waiting. By this great joy, I beg you, * obtain patience and spiritual joy for me in all my sufferings.

Hail Mary . . .

3. Most loving Saint Anne,* I remind you of the great joy you felt * when you brought forth a daughter * who would become the Mother of the Son of God. By this great joy, I beg you,* obtain God's grace and favor for me through her Divine Son.

Hail Mary . . .

4. Most kind Saint Anne,* I remind you of the great joy you felt * when you offered to God the Father * your daughter of three years in the temple. By this great joy, I beg you,* obtain for me the grace to serve God faithfully * according to my state of life.

Hail Mary . . .

5. Most glorious Saint Anne,* worthy of all praise,* I remind you of the great joy which is yours in heaven in beholding your God,* your most loving daughter Mary,* and your husband Saint Joachim. By this great joy, I beg you,* help me at the hour of my death,* and aid me to attain life everlasting.

Hail Mary . . .

The Little Rosary of Saint Anne

This little rosary consists in reciting (*three times*) the following group of prayers:

Our Father (*once*).

∕. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women, and

blessed is the fruit of thy womb, *etc.*

*Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Good St. Anne,
hear our prayers and grant our requests.*

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for
us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen (*five times*).

Glory be (*once*).

V. PUBLIC NOVENA TO SAINT ANNE

Hymn

(MELODY: *Mother Dearest, Mother Fairest*)

Great Saint Anne, enthroned in glory,
Powerful Saint in heaven above,
Plead for us thy needy children,
Fill our hearts with God's sweet love.

Chorus

Good Saint Anne, O hear our prayer;
Good Saint Anne, O hear our prayer;
Guard us from all sin and danger,
Keep us in thy loving care.

Novena Prayer

Priest: In the name of the father and of
the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

People: Amen.

Priest: Come, O Holy Ghost, fill the hearts
of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire
of Thy love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they
shall be created.

People: And Thou shalt renew the face of
the earth.

Priest: Let us pray. O God, Who didst
instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light
of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same
Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in
His consolation. Though Jesus Christ Our
Lord.

People: Amen.

Priest and People: O Almighty and Eternal God,* look down with favor upon us* who are assembled here to glorify Thy servant Saint Anne.* Be pleased to accept the homage* which we offer Thee in her name.* And in Thy goodness answer the prayers* which we present to Thee* through her powerful intercession.* As she pleased Thee on earth by her virtuous life,* so listen to the request which she now makes for us* before Thy throne in heaven.* Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ,* Who hast said:* "Ask and you shall receive,* seek and you shall find,* knock and it shall be opened unto you,"* graciously hear our prayers,* and grant that what we ask with confidence,* we may receive through the intercession of her* who brought into the world Thy Mother,* the Immaculate Queen of Heaven. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

Good Saint Anne,* Mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope,* pray to her for us and obtain our request (*three times*).

NOTE: The special prayers given for each day of the Novena beginning on page 7 may be said here.

Hymn to Saint Anne

(MELODY: *Lourdes Hymn — Immaculate Mary*)

1. To kneel at thine altar in faith we draw near,
Led onward by Mary thy daughter so dear.

CHORUS:

O Good Saint Anne, we call on thy name,
Thy praises loud thy children proclaim.

2. To all who invoke thee thou lendest an ear;
Thou soothest the sorrows of all who draw near.

CHORUS:

3. As suppliants we come here to kneel at thy feet;
O grant what we ask thee if for us it is meet.

CHORUS:

Indulgences*

a) The faithful who devoutly say some prayers in honor of Saint Anne *on Tuesday* of any week, are granted:

An indulgence of 7 years;

A plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions.

(Confession, Communion prayer for the intention of the Holy Father, visit to a public church.)

b) The faithful who offer their devout prayers in honor of Saint Anne *for nine successive days* are granted:

An indulgence of 7 years, once a day;

A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions at the end of the novena.

*The indulgenced prayers in this booklet were taken from the latest edition of the *Raccolta*, the Church's collection of approved indulgenced prayers (1950).

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